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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HEMSWORTH.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1946.

Public Health Officers of the

Hemsworth Urban District Council

Medical Officer of Health (Part time)

J.S. LAURIE, M.B., Ch.B. (Glas.)

Sanitary Inspector (Whole time)

S. FOX, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HEMSWORTH.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

which includes the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1946.

Public Health Department,
White Hall,
Hemsworth.

Gentlemen,

Herewith I present to you my Annual Report on the health of your district for the year 1946.

This report is drawn up in accordance with Circular ~~28/46~~ 13/47 of the Ministry of Health, which states that owing to disorganisation caused by the War only interim reports are required containing essential matters.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

The area of the Hemsworth Urban District consists, as formerly, of 4,163 acres, comprising the communities of Hemsworth, Kinsley and Fitzwilliam.

The Rateable Value is £51,273, and the sum represented by a penny rate equals £197. 6. 0.

The chief industry in the area is Coal Mining and its allied trades, the remaining portion of the district being devoted to agriculture. Population 12,690.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	Males	Females	Total
Live Births.....	158	149	307
Legitimate.....	150	137	287
Illegitimate.....	8	12	20
Still Births (all legitimate)...	3	5	8
Deaths under 1 year of age.....	13	6	19
Legitimate.....	13	6	19
Illegitimate.....	-	-	-

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year to receive or require comment.

The total number of deaths during the year from all causes was 141, and the causes of death were as follows :-

	Males	Females	Total.
Scarlet Fever.....	-	1	1
Whooping Cough.....	1	-	1
Diphtheria.....	-	-	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	3	3	6
Other forms of Tuberculosis.....	-	-	-
Influenza.....	-	-	-
Measles.....	-	-	-
Acute Infective Encephalitis.....	1	-	1
Cancer (all sites).....	8	6	14
Diabetes.....	1	1	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage & Thrombosis.....	6	9	15
Heart Disease.....	13	8	21
Other Diseases of Circulatory System....	2	1	3
Bronchitis.....	11	8	19
Pneumonia.....	3	1	4
Other Respiratory Diseases.....	-	-	-
Ulcer of Stomach and Dodenum.....	1	-	1
Appendicitis.....	1	-	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years).....	2	1	3
Other Digestive Diseases.....	2	-	2
Nephritis.....	1	2	3
Puerperal & Post Abortive Sepsis.....	-	-	-
Other Maternal causes.....	-	-	-
Premature Birth.....	3	4	7
Congenital & other Infantile Diseases...	5	-	5
Suicide.....	-	2	2
Road Traccic Accidents.....	-	-	-
Other violent causes.....	4	1	5
Syphilitic Disease.....	-	1	1
All other causes.....	12	12	24

2. Ambulance.

Facilities are adequate and consist of a public ambulance supplied by the local authority and an arrangement to supplement this with taxis where expedient. The ambulance being a standard war-time truck chassis with suitable body, and the only type available when purchased, is not satisfactory. By alteration to the springs the vehicle has been made a little more comfortable, but its replacement is still necessary when a suitable type is available.

In addition to the above facilities, an infectious diseases ambulance is provided for all infectious cases by the Hemsworth and Wombwell Joint Hospital Committee, and an ambulance is provided by the local Colliery Companies for their own accident cases.

3. Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Scabies.

This Centre is still doing good work and is now housed in excellent premises in Rotherham Road. It has been inspected and given high praise by the West Riding County Council officials who are taking over control in the near future.

	Male	Female	Children under 16
Cases treated during the year.....	51	56	174

No. of treatments - 562

Clinics.

Ante-natal and Child Welfare Clinics are maintained in Hemsworth and Fitzwilliam by the West Riding County Council. The Medical Officers are very ably assisted at these clinics by the Health Visitors, who are also County Council officers, and contribute largely to the health and welfare of the district by their work and co-operation with the doctors.

The Child Welfare and Ante-natal Clinics at Fitzwilliam are in the care respectively of Dr. R.H. Mumford and myself. At Hemsworth, Child Welfare and Ante-natal Clinics, also a "Sunray" Clinic, are under the supervision of Dr. Smith, a West Riding County Council Medical Officer.

It should be noted that there have been no deaths during the year from Maternal causes. A creditable reflection on the work of the Clinics and Midwives.

I would like again to mention and express my gratitude to the voluntary workers who so kindly give of their time and contribute so largely to the smooth running efficiency of the clinics.

The attendance at these Clinics were as follows :-

Hemsworth.

87 Expectant Mothers made 362 attendances at 24 sessions.
118 Children under 5 made 1723 attendances at 47 sessions.

Fitzwilliam.

148 Expectant Mothers made 927 attendances at 50 sessions
234 Children under 5 made 1984 attendances at 47 sessions.

These figures speak for themselves, and demonstrate the high standard of care which is being taken of the expectant mothers and their children by the Nursing and Medical services in the area.

4. Hospitals - Public and Voluntary.

None in district.

Infectious Diseases.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria notified and dealt with during 1946 was 45 as against55 for the previous year. They were divided as follows :-

	1946	1945
Scarlet Fever.....	30	38
Diphtheria.....	15	17

I would draw attention to the continued low incidence of Diphtheria and nil mortality during the year. This is directly attributable to Immunisation, the campaign for which is still being vigorously pursued.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

From the record submitted by the Health Visitors, it is found that the following number of children have been immunised against Diphtheria during the year :-

	1946	1945	1944
Under 5 years.....	307	97	114
5 to 15 years.....	251	10	29
	558	107	143

Venereal Disease.

In connection with the campaign against Venereal Disease, posters have been displayed in Public Lavatories and other suitable sites, warning persons against the risk of infection, and also giving the address of Centres where treatment is available if the disease is contracted. So far as I am aware, the incidence of Venereal Disease in the district is not high.

Sanitary Circumstances in the Area.

These are fully discussed in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector, which I endorse and recommend for your consideration.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

This dealt with in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

	Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Malaria.....	5	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	1	-	-
Dysentery.....	16	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.....	4	2	1
Whooping Cough.....	108	1	1
Scarlet Fever.....	30	30	1
Diphtheria.....	15	15	-
Pneumonia.....	44	-	4
Erysipelas.....	6	-	-
Measles.....	8	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.....	2	-	-

Tuberculosis.

	Resp. M.	Resp. F.	Non-Resp. M.	Non-Resp. F.
Under 1 year.....	-	-	-	-
1 year of age.....	-	-	-	-
1 year - 5 years.....	-	-	-	-
5 " - 15 "	-	1	-	-
15 " - 25 "	-	3	-	1
25 " - 35 "	2	-	-	-
35 " - 45 "	1	2	-	-
45 " - 55 "	-	-	-	-
55 " - 65 "	1	-	-	-
65 years and over.....	-	-	-	-

The number of cases on the Register at 31st December, 1946, were as follows :-

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
	122	103	22	27
The number on the Register at 31st December, 1945 :-	124	104	26	24

There are a few figures to which I would like to draw your attention. The number of Births actually taking place in the District total 221, which leaves a balance of 97 which mostly took place in Hospital and Nursing Homes outside the Urban District Of the 221, 124 were born in Hemsworth, where 87 Mothers attended the Ante-natal Clinic, and 97 were born in Kinsley and Fitzwilliam where 148 mothers attended the Ante-natal Clinic. This would appear to shew that the mothers in Kinsley and Fitzwilliam are more alive to the value of the Clinics than those in Hemsworth.

Extracts from figures supplied by the Registrar General show that the Birth rate per 1,000 of the population in the Hemsworth Urban District was 24·2 against 19·1 for England and Wales, while the Death rate was 11·1 in the Urban District against 11·5 per 1,000 population in England and Wales.

Infantile Mortality (all causes) under 1 year 62 per 1,000 population, against 43 for England and Wales.

Infantile Mortality (Diarrhoea) under 2 years 9·77 against 4·4.

This is a sad picture, and in my view one of the factors largely responsible is the very serious overcrowding due to the housing shortage in the area. I know the Herculean efforts which have been and are being made by you and the officials to remedy this state of affairs, and sincerely hope that in time to come your reward will be seen in a steady drop in these disturbing figures.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Officials of the Council, who, in addition to their many other duties, have been so helpful and courteous to me in the performance of my duties.

I am,
Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. S. LAURIE.

Medical Officer of Health.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HEMSWORTH.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31st December, 1946.

Public Health Department,
White Hall,
Hemsworth.

To the Members of the Hemsworth Urban District Council;

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1946. This is my twenty-third yearly report and is drawn up in accordance with Circular ~~[illegible]~~ 13/47 issued by the Ministry of Health.

In May of this year my assistant returned to duty, after being demobilized from His Majesty's Forces. As a consequence of his return it has been found possible to commence a survey of the whole of the houses in the area, dealing with applications for council houses in the first instance.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The number of zymotic diseases which were reported during the year was 45. 30 Scarlet Fever and 15 Diphtheria, as against 58 reported in the year 1945. Each case is visited after the removal of the patient and rooms are disinfected as required. Disinfection is also carried out after the removal to Sanatoria or the death of any person suffering from T. B.

HOUSING.

It had been hoped that the twenty-four bungalows in course of erection, referred to in my last report, would have been completed during the current year, but unfortunately owing to circumstances over which your authority had no control these bungalows are not yet completed and no new houses have been completed during the year. As a consequence of the return of many men and women from the forces the situation is even worse than at the end of 1945. There are at the present time four schemes of building in operation in various parts of the area, some houses being of a permanent type and some permanent prefabricated. Plans are also being submitted for other estates but the houses are not yet in course of erection. In the survey already referred to 880 houses have been visited and it was found as a result that 35 were overcrowded from a Ministry of Health standpoint, and 215 from a bedroom standard. Of the 1026 applications received for Council houses 363 were from persons who were living in lodgings.

While there remain many houses which are not overcrowded and which are in a decent state of repair many applications have been made from tenants who are anxious to live in better conditions, such as the provision of hot and cold water, bathroom, garden, etc., as in the majority of houses in this area with the exception of those owned by the local authority there is no hot water nor a bathroom provided, and one can fully realize the difficulty where there are grown up sons and daughters in the houses when the persons concerned are anxious to have a bath.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

The water supply during the year has been satisfactory so far as quality is concerned but again complaints have been received with regard to the shortage of the supply at the Fitzwilliam part of your area. This matter was referred to in my last report, when I said that an Engineer had been engaged to go fully into the matter, but up to the present his report has not been received and the conditions are the same as they were at the time of my last report.

The sampling of water both for bacteriological and chemical examination is made by the officials of the Hemsworth Joint Water Committee. Samples are taken frequently during the year, and these have always been reported upon as satisfactory.

Closet Accommodation.

There is no change in the circumstances of the closet accommodation and the position is as previously. The previes which are in existence in your area are mainly connected with property which is scheduled for Closing Orders when the time is opportune, while the pail closets are in a part of your area which has no sewer and where a combined cesspool is not a feasible proposition.

Privies...	50
Pail and tub closets..	6
Water Closets...	3039
Waste Water Closets...	6

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Arrangements for public cleansing is as hitherto, dry ashes being removed each week from each house and taken to the Council's rubbish tip, which is under the system of controlled tipping. The privies are emptied at frequent intervals and this matter is also taken to the tip.

Some difficulty is still being experienced in the replacing of worn-out dustbins and I have no hesitation in saying that the difficulty in procuring these necessary articles is greater than it was last year.

I have been able, however, to obtain during the year eighty dustbins, which have been sold to private owners to replace worn out ones. In many cases the owners themselves would have been only too willing to purchase bins had this been possible, but owing to the difficulty in obtaining them they have to a large degree relied upon the local authority being able to replace them when necessary.

In a few instances private owners have made an agreement with the local authority that dustbins worn out and belonging to their property shall be replaced by the local authority and they have agreed to pay a requisite sum each year for this service.

The total number of loads of dry ashes removed during the year was 3009 and the cost of the service was £2829, which includes the removal of night-soil, and the cost of controlled tipping.

Cesspools.

The cesspools in your area are the same in number as given in my previous report and are emptied by the Council's Cesspool emptier at frequent intervals and the contents deposited in the Council's sewer at the nearest point available to the Hemsworth Sewage Works.

SALVAGE.

The collection of salvage gets more difficult as the war years recede and with the exception of bones, rags and waste paper it has not been found possible to salvage much other material. The return for the amount of salvage collected from April 1946 to the 31st March, 1947, is as follows:-

		£	s	d
Waste Paper...	39tons 11cwts... ...	258	18	3
Rags....	15¾ "	11	7	2
Bones...	16¼ "	4	10	1
Bottles and jars (70 dozen)	... ...	3	15	7
Scrap metal...	1 " 3½ "	1	3	6
	42tons 6½cwt	£279	14	7

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is only one Common Lodging House now in your area and this has been visited 49 times during the year. As a general rule it is always to be found satisfactory and at any time any requests of mine for its improvement have always been attended to.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The inspection of these premises is carried out at frequent intervals. The number of inspections made during the year being 28. At no time has there been any reason for an adverse report on these premises to be made to you.

RAT INFESTATION.

The Ministry of Food instructions with regard to the carrying out of the pre-baiting and poisoning of the sewers in your area have been complied with during the year. The sewers having been pre-baited and poisoned twice, namely during April and November. The results have been found to be satisfactory and a report of the work carried out was submitted to the Director of Rat Infestation.

The Sewage Works in your area and the Council's rubbish tip have also received attention and have been baited and poisoned whenever it has been found necessary. Any complaints from inhabitants in the area are speedily dealt with and during the year 47 visits have been made in connection with Rodent Control.

HOUSING.

146 houses were inspected during the year under the Housing Act. 1936, and of these 41 were found to be in need of repairs. 41 Informal Notices were served in every case but it was found necessary to serve Statutory Notice in 15 instances. As a result 13 of these Notices were complied with and 2 were in abeyance at the end of the year.

The difficulty in getting housing repairs carried out is, in my opinion, greater than ever, owing to the fact that essential materials for carrying out repairs are not available. This is especially so in the matter of fall-pipes, furnace pans and eaves troughing, and as a result many houses which at the time of inspection need only minor repairs gradually get worse owing to the fact that when orders are given for repairs to be carried out the essential materials are not available. In my opinion it is essential that a larger amount of building material for repairs should be allocated in order to keep houses in a reasonable state of repair, and not allow them to become unfit for human habitation

through the essential materials for repairs not being on hand. During the year 5 houses have been demolished in your area owing to the fact that they were not capable of being repaired and made fit for human habitation.

NUISANCES.

458 visits were made for the detection and removal of nuisances, and as a result 274 Informal Notices were served. Under this heading many houses are included as it is often found that houses can be dealt with under the Public Health Act much better than under the Housing Acts.

Arising out of the service of Informal Notice 61 Statutory Notices had to be served before the work was carried out. At the end of the year 15 Notices were still outstanding, and it was also found necessary to institute Court Proceedings in one instance where the nuisance had not been abated after the service of Stutory Notice. This case was still pending at the end of the year.

The same difficulty is experienced in dealing with many of these nuisances as is experienced with respect to the houses, as very often when work has been ordered by the owner the builder has found it impossible to carry out the work owing to the fact that the necessary material is not on hand in order to carry out the work. In addition to this there is still a shortage of skilled labour for repair work as it appears that the major portion of the skilled building operatives are engaged in the erection of new houses.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

As in my last report the only slaughterhouse in use in your area is that which is under the direction of the Ministry of Food, and the animals which are slaughtered there are distributed in the area of the Hemsworth Rural, the Royston Urban and your own area. The work of supervision is carried out as formerly by myself and one of the Rural District Council's Sanitary Inspectors, each taking an alternative week. Much assistance has been rendered to me in this respect by the additional Sanitary Inspector, and during the year 250 visits were made in this connection.

In addition to the visits paid to the slaughterhouse all pigs slaughtered on private premises and owned by private owners and killed under licence by the Ministry of Food are inspected by your staff. My observations with regard to the conditions of killing, as expressed in my last report, is again emphasised. Pigs killed on the allotments and in back yards, etc., for private persons, are not killed and dressed under hygenic conditions and should, wherever practicable, be killed in the Ministry of Food slaughterhouse. This again would save a great deal of time which is taken up in visiting those notified cases of private killing.

In the inspection of meat and foods, including private pig killing, 44 visits were made and appended is a list of the meat and food which has been condemned in your area during the year.

All the meat condemned is taken away by the Salvage Department of the Ministry of Food and is disposed of under their jurisdiction.

List of condemned meat and food.

Whole Beasts	7
Pigs	3
Calf	1
Sheep	7½
Beast livers (whole)	154
" " (parts)	406
Sheep Plucks	252
Beasts' Heads and tongues	54
Meat (lbs)	254
Udders	18
Heart	1
Corned Beef (6 lb tins)	174 tins
Milk	42 "
Tinned Fish	28 "
Cheese	16½ lbs
Tea	330 "
Cereals	3 cwt
Soup	1 tin
Pickles	35 jars
Biscuits	7 lbs
Jam	[illegible] tins
Chocolate	53¼ lbs
Sugar	10½ "
Sausage	1 tin
Peas	10 "
Vegetable meat	35 lbs
Fruit	5 tins
Bacon	16 lbs
Meat and Vegetable	3 tins
Eggs	193
Fish	281 lbs
Beans	11 tins

FARMS AND MILK PRODUCTION.

During the year 66 visits have been made to farms where milk is produced and one additional person has been registered during the year as a milk producer. In your area there is one milk producer who is licensed as an Accredited Producer.

As a general rule the cow-sheds have been found to be satisfactory and where this has not been so, cleansing and limewashing has been carried out when notice has been given to the occupier concerned.

The inspection of cattle is still in the hands of the Ministry of Agriculture and I understand that their Veterinary Surgeons make periodical inspections of the dairy cattle but with what results I have no information.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

During the year 65 samples of milk have been taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Of these samples 63 were found in all respects up to the standard laid down, but in two instances the milk was not satisfactory and cautions were sent to the producers by the West Riding County Council under whose jurisdiction these samples are taken.

SAMPLING OF MILK FOR THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE.

157 samples of milk were taken on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, which milk is examined for keeping qualities. In july of this year the Ministry of Agriculture intimated that in the future they would take their own samples and as a consequence no samples have been taken since that time on their behalf. The samples were originally taken each alternate week from each milk producer and up to the time of my ceasing to take these samples they were generally found to be satisfactory.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

A new factory has been installed in your area since my last report but the work carried out there only entails sorting, no machinery being installed on these premises.

The factories in the area number 17, and they have been visited during the year 26 times. In one instance certain suggestions were made by myself and the Factories Inspector and these suggestions were carried out to our entire satisfaction.

SHOPS ACT.

34 visits have been paid to the shops in your area to ascertain the conditions under which the shop assistants were working and to see that lavatory accommodation etc., was in conformity with the Act. In three instances it was found that the tempe ature was not satisfactory and steps were taken immediately to get this rectified.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Two observations have been taken with respect to the abatement of a smoke nuisance which arose from the Colliery which is situate in your area. When the observations were taken it was found that the emission of black smoke exceeded the limit laid down in your Bye-laws. This matter was taken up with the Colliery Manager and as a consequence steps were taken to obviate the nuisance and to comply with the Bye-laws concerned.

SCHOOLS.

During the year the whole of the schools in your area have been visited by the Medical Officer of Health and myself and the conditions found at the schools were satisfactory, except that in our opinion the periodical flushing of the W.C.s by automatic flushing tanks leaves much to be desired and we suggest it would be a great advantage if each W.C. could be provided with a separate flushing cistern.

Herewith I append a list of inspections made by myself and the additional Inspector during the year, together with a list of Notices served under the various Acts.

No. of Inspections made during the year.

Infectious Disease.....	47
Inspection for Nuisances.....	458
Scavenging and Salvage.....	207
Slaughterhouses.....	250
Meat and Foods.....	44

Work in Hand.....	481
Housing Inspection.....	146
Revisits.....	162
Common Lodging House.....	49
Tip.....	78
Farms.....	66
Milk Samples (Min.of Agr....)	157
Rodent Control.....	47
Shops.....	34
Schools.....	7
Offensive Trades.....	28
Suspected overcrowding and circumstances for rehousing.	882
Factories.....	26
Milk Sampling (Food & Drugs).	65
Defective Bins.....	86
Filthy Premises.....	4
Miscellaneous.....	271

In conclusion I should like to place on record the very willing and able assistance which I have received from the Additional Sanitary Inspector since he took up his duties. The major portion of the Housing Survey was carried out by him, in addition to which he has assisted me in the sampling of milk and various other matters which could not have been attended to without his help.

I should also like to thank the members of the Council and my fellow officials for the assistance which they have given me during the past year in carrying out my duties.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

Sydney Fox C.R.S.I., M.I.S.A.

Sanitary Inspector.

RECORD OF NOTICES SERVED.

UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Informal.	Statutory.	Results.
274	61	46 complied with 15 outstanding, including one Court case pending.

UNDER THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.

Informal.	Statutory.	Results.
41	15	13 complied with. 2 part complied with.